

THE URBAN DISTRICT OF
ESHER

FORTY-FOURTH

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Senior Sanitary Inspector

For the Year ended December 31st, 1938.

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URBAN DISTRICT OF ESHER.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

COUNCILLOR IRVING TODD (*Chairman*).

COUNCILLOR BUCHANAN.	COUNCILLOR DR. MAVIS
„ BUCKINGHAM.	GUNTHER.
„ CLIFFORD.	„ MRS. HALE.
„ EDWARDS.	„ MACHELL.
„ FINCH.	„ PIKE.
„ FRANKS.	„ SOAN.
	„ WILSON.

Ex-Officio Members:

COUNCILLOR W. G. BROWN, J.P. (*Chairman of the Council*).
COUNCILLOR T. GIBBONS (*Vice-Chairman of the Council*).

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Personnel.

Medical Officer of Health :

*A. SENIOR, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H. (part time).

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

*REGINALD F. WHEELER, Cert.R.S.I., as Sanitary Inspector and Meat and Foods Inspector, A.M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

*JOHN C. ARMSTRONG, Cert. R.S.I., as Sanitary Inspector and Meat and Foods Inspector, M.S.I.A.

*JOHN W. HOBSON, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. Sanitary Inspector and Inspector of Meat and Foods, Cert.R.S.I. in Sanitary Science.

Clerks :

MISS M. E. WEDDERBURN.
J. M. BELL.

Mortuary Keeper and Disinfecter :

F. KIMBER.

Clerk and Solicitor of the Council :

FREDERICK EDWARDS.

*Contribution of salary made from Exchequer.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	14,847
Registrar General's estimate of resident population mid. 1938	42,420
Population (census 1931)	32,407
Number of inhabited houses 31/12/38 ac- cording to rate books	12,104
Rateable Value	£ 584,333
Estimated produce of a penny rate, 1938/9 ...	£ 2,200
Number of new houses erected in 1938 ...	639
Birth rate per 1,000 living	15.67
Average for six years	13.85
Death rate per 1,000 living	11.88
Adjusted death rate	11.52
Average for six years	10.34
Infant mortality per 1,000 births	33.09
Average for six years	36.94
Death rate from diseases of the heart and blood vessels	3.13
Average for six years	3.21
Death rate from malignant diseases	1.53
Average for six years	1.46
Death rate from Tuberculosis (all forms) ...	0.306
Average for six years	0.444

Urban District of Esher.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
ESHER.

April, 1939.

*To the Chairman and Members
of the Urban District Council.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my annual report for the year 1938. The information required to be given is set out under six headings as requested by the Ministry of Health.

These are :

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Section A | Statistics and Social Circumstances. |
| „ B | General Provisions of Health Services. |
| „ C | Sanitary Circumstances of the Area. |
| „ D | Housing. |
| „ E | Inspection and Supervision of Food. |
| „ F | Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases. |

There have been no noteworthy conditions prejudicial to health.

The population of the district as estimated by the Registrar General at the middle of 1938 was 42,420, an increase of 970 persons.

I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support and assistance extended to me throughout the year and I also thank the officials in the Public Health Department for

their ready help on every occasion. It has always been a pleasure to work with the officers of the Council and it is with no little regret that I have to sever my connection with the Council as one of its officers.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

A. SENIOR, M.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	14,847
Registrar General's estimate of resident population mid. 1938	42,420
Number of inhabited houses—end of 1938 according to rate books	12,104
Rateable value	£584,333
Estimated produce of a penny rate 1938/39 ...	£2,200

There is no change to note in the social conditions of the area and no alteration to record with regard to the chief industries. Unemployment is never excessive as there is work of some kind in progress in the district.

Extracts from Vital Statistics :—

Live Births—				Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate	...	...		640	330	310
Illegitimate	...	...		25	14	11
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—15·67.						

				Total.	M.	F.
Still Births	...	...	...	13	8	5
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births—19·17.						

Deaths—Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—11·52.

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of of the Registrar General's Short List)—

Puerperal Sepsis 0

Other Puerperal causes 3

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—4·42.

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age—

All infants per 1,000 live births 39·09

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 40·62

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 65

Deaths from Measles (all ages) 1

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) 0

Deaths from Diarrhoea under two years 0

The causes of death are set out in the following table :—

CAUSES OF DEATH

	M.	F.
All Causes	192	212
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever...	1	—
2. Measles	1	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	1
4. Whooping Cough	—	—
5. Diphtheria	3	4
6. Influenza	3	2
7. Encephalitis lethargica	—	1
8. Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—
9. Respiratory tuberculosis	5	7
10. Other tuberculosis	1	—
11. Syphilis	—	2
12. General paralysis of insane, etc. ...	3	—

13.	Cancer	...	...	...	...	36	29
14.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	5
15.	Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	7	9
16.	Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	45	55
17.	Aneurism	...	...	...	...	1	1
18.	Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	9	8
19.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	5	6
20.	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	9	9
21.	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	3	3
22.	Peptic ulcer	...	...	...	...	5	—
23.	Diarrhœa under two years	...	...	...	...	1	4
24.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	3	6
25.	Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	1	1
26.	Other liver disease	...	...	...	...	1	1
27.	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	6	7
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	...	6	6
29.	Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	—
30.	Other puerperal diseases	...	...	...	...	—	3
31.	Congenital debility, premature birth, etc.	...	...	...	...	6	7
32.	Senility	...	...	...	...	1	10
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	6	—
34.	Other violence	...	...	...	...	13	5
35.	Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	10	20
36.	Ill-defined or N.K.	...	...	...	...	—	—
37.	Diarrhœa 2 years and over	...	...	...	...	—	—
	Included under No. 35—Smallpox	...	...	...	...	—	—
	Poliomyelitis and Polio-encephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—

WARDS STATISTIC TABLE.

Ward.	Acres.	No. of Houses.	Houses. per Acre	Estimated Population.	No. of Deaths	Rate per 1000 living	No. of Deaths under 1 year of age.
Claygate	1375	1129	0.82	4637	35	7.54	1
Cobham	5347	1773	0.33	7632	71	9.3	2
East Molesey	781	1786	2.28	8212	86	10.47	3
Esher	2094	1088	0.52	4374	38	8.75	2
Long Ditton	869	983	1.13	4421	29	6.56	2
Stoke d'Abernon	2035	398	0.19	1443	16	11.08	—
Thames Ditton	1607	3500	2.17	8875	94	10.6	10
West Molesey	736	1447	1.96	2826	35	12.31	6
<hr/>							
Whole District	14847	12104	1.175	42420	404	average 9.57	26

Table showing rainfall in the District during 1938. The observations were taken at the Sewage Farm, Esher.

January	...	...	...	...	2.14
February	...	...	...	...	.61
March	...	...	...	...	.46
April	...	...	...	...	.03
May	...	...	...	...	.83
June	...	...	...	...	1.55
July	...	...	...	...	1.36
August	...	...	...	...	2.78
September	...	...	...	...	2.29
October	...	...	...	...	2.90
November	...	...	...	...	4.16
December	...	...	...	...	5.02

Total 24.13 ins

Rainfall—1934	...	...	...	22.99
1935	...	...	...	30.56
1936	...	...	...	29.30
1937	...	...	...	37.70
1938	...	...	...	24.13
Average for the past five years	...	...	...	28.93
General Rainfall over the British				
Isles for the year 1935	...	...	...	45.46 ins.
„ „ 1936	...	...	...	43.62 „
„ „ 1937	...	...	...	43.10 „
„ „ 1938	...	...	...	45.5 „

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(1) The Staff of the Public Health Department is set out at the beginning of this report, and was unchanged during the year.

The office accommodation in the Public Health Department is very inadequate. Two Sanitary Inspectors with two clerks work in an office that is too small and as it also contains the records of the department it is fast becoming so cramped that this want of accommodation must have a bad effect on the quality of the work of the department.

The Medical Officer of Health and Senior Sanitary Inspector have to share the same room. Here again the crowded condition resulting from two senior officers working in such close proximity frequently causes great inconvenience.

The work of the Medical Officer at times includes medical examinations which, under present conditions, have to be made at special times, such as after office hours, or the Senior Sanitary Inspector has to vacate his place and leave the room free for the Medical Officer and this naturally interferes with his work.

The housing of the Sanitary Department could hardly be worse, and the Council would be well advised to provide other and more commodious offices for it.

(2) *Laboratory Facilities.*—The following specimens have been examined and reported on during the year :—

	Pos.	Neg.
Number of specimens examined for		
Diphtheria	21	277
Number of specimens examined for		
Tuberculosis	8	73
Number of specimens examined for		
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever ...	—	4

(3) *Ambulance Facilities*.—There are no changes to report.

(4) The Nursing arrangements have not been changed in any way.

(5) Clinics and treatment centres are unchanged.

(6) *Hospitals: Public and Voluntary*.—There are no changes to report.

Public Mortuary.—The central mortuary for the whole area is situated in Brooklands Road, Thames Ditton.

The number of bodies received was as follows :—

	1938	1937
For Post-mortem examination and inquest	34	29
For Post-mortem examination only ...	15	16
For Inquest only	1	—
To await burial	—	1

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. *Water*.—The source of supply remains unchanged and the quality and quantity has proved satisfactory. There are, however, a number of wells still in use in the district and a survey of these has been made. I append a table showing the position of the survey at the end of November, 1938.

It is satisfactory to be able to report that this work is practically completed, as will be seen from the statement, and that in only two instances, at two houses in West Molesey, are negotiations still in progress. The owners of these two houses have had a supply of water laid on from the Metropolitan Water Board's main to just within the boundary of the property and as soon as they are in a financial position to provide a stand pipe tap supply or bring the main into the houses, they will do so. All the well supplies may otherwise be satisfactorily accounted for. The work has entailed a considerable number of visits and following up, but in most cases ready co-operation of the owners of houses concerned has materially helped.

SURVEY OF WELLS.

Showing result of action taken regarding Wells supplying drinking water to houses. Position at the 30th November, 1938.

WARD.	Number of Wells supplying drinking water.	Number found on analysis to be satisfactory.	Not Satisfactory.			Negotiations taking place.	Remarks.
			Mains supply provided to houses and use of Wells discontinued.		Wells discontinued.		
			Houses supplied.				
CLAYGATE ...	2	—	2	1	—	1	The two cottages are to be demolished and the Well will therefore cease to be used.
COBHAM ...	15	7	7	3	—	2	Wells repaired. No mains supply available. Houses unoccupied. Sample taken.
LONG DITTON...	1	—	—	—	—	1	House unoccupied. Sample not taken (spring water).
STOKE D'ABERNON THAMES DITTON	2	—	1	1	—	1	The cottage which is owned by the Council is empty and is to be demolished.
WEST MOLESEY	19	1	14	14	2	2	House unoccupied. Sample not taken. Sample satisfactory on analysis after drainage system had been thoroughly repaired. Houses unoccupied. Samples not taken.
TOTALS ...	40	8	—	19	2	11	Total number of samples taken 26.

2. *Drainage and Sewerage*.—At the Esher and Molesey outfall works it is proposed to have additional filters to deal with increased flow of sewage, rendered necessary by the development of the district.

The treatment at the Cobham Disposal Works continues to give a satisfactory effluent but additional filters will become necessary there very shortly.

A contract has been entered into, with the approval of the Ministry of Health, for the laying of sewers in the Cobham and Oxshott areas where development is proceeding.

Further extensions of sewers are proposed in the Long Ditton and Thames Ditton areas, and several large estates are being laid out for building purposes rendering the provision of estate sewers necessary.

Rivers and Streams.—No action has had to be taken to check pollution of rivers and streams.

3. (1) *Closet Accommodation*.—There have been no changes.

(2) *Public Cleansing*.—The arrangements for the collection of house refuse are unchanged.

(3) *Sanitary Inspection of the Area*.—The tabular statement furnished by the Senior Sanitary Inspector is included in his report which is appended to this one.

(4) *Shops*.—No formal action under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, has been found necessary.

Full details and results of informal notices are recorded in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

(5) *Smoke Abatement*.—No formal action has been necessary.

(6) *Swimming Baths and Pools*.—The Black Pond on Esher Common is used for bathing and is emptied and cleaned out periodically. There are private bathing pools and one that is open to the public, in which the water is purified on the “ozone” principle and electrically treated (no chlorine used) and has been found clean and wholesome on analysis.

(7) *Eradication of Bed Bugs*.—

(1) Council Houses :—

Found to be infested ...	...	...	...	12
Disinfested ...	...	...	...	12½

(2) Other houses :—

Found to be infested ...	...	...	...	13
Disinfested ...	...	...	...	13

The method employed is the use of an electric sprayer or, where power is not obtainable, a hand spray. The material used in the apparatus is “Vermicine.”

It has not been necessary to take any action to ensure that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses.

The work of disinfestation has been carried out by the Council’s staff.

The supervision and education of tenants to prevent infestation or re-infestation is largely carried out by the Housing Manager. It has not been necessary to take any other action.

4. *Schools*.—The sanitary condition and water supply have been kept under observation and no action has been necessary. Children have been

excluded from school suffering from infectious disease or contagious skin diseases and not permitted to return until the danger of infection is past.

The number of children attending the elementary schools was 3,123, the children attending schools in each ward as follows :—

		Boys	Girls	Infants	Total
Claygate		105	103	62	270
Cobham		212	195	123	530
East Molesey		313	276	104	693
Esher		93	189	91	373
Long Ditton		96	95	78	269
Stoke d'Abernon		11	4	18	33
Thames Ditton		146	148	72	366
West Molesey		160	169	260	589
Totals ...		1136	1179	808	3123
1923/33	1933/34	1935/36	1936/37	1937/38	
3193	2975	2755	2889	3123	

The notifications of sickness among the children, obtained from the Head Teachers, were as follows :

					1938	1937
Chickenpox					57	188
Impetigo					1	7
Measles					98	120
Mumps					93	122
Whooping Cough					58	4
Scabies					3	1
Ringworm					1	—
					311	442
					9·95%	17·37%
					attending school.	

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

1.—Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	491
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	491
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	35
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	35
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	5
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	418

2.—Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	373
--	-----

3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—

<i>A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.</i>	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	3

- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners	3
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	3

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 7
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
- | | |
|--|---|
| (a) By owners | 5 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | 2 |

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... 4
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil.

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil

4.—Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding:—

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	26
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	26
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	209
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	3
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	9
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	67
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	Nil

SECTION E.**INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**

(a) *Milk Supply*.—The farms, cowsheds and dairies have been regularly inspected. The report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector contains details of improvements that have been made at some of the farms and a list of the number of Licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 and 1938.

The requirements of the Milk and Dairies Order of 1926 have received attention.

Only twenty-one samples of milk were taken during the year as compared with thirty-nine in 1937. This is accounted for by the decreasing number of Cowkeepers in the district and to a slight increase in the number of "Accredited" producers where the sampling is carried out as a matter of routine by the County Authorities and not by this Department.

Twelve of the samples were primary and were submitted to the full bacteriological and microscopical tests and the biological test for tubercle bacillus.

The result of these is shown as follows :—

Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	6	
Containing B.Coli	...	...	...	...	4	
Containing B.Coli and Tubercle bacillus					2	
					—	12

Six "repeat" samples showed the following results :—

Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	4	
Containing B.Coli	...	...	...	...	2	
					—	6

Three samples of "Accredited" milk were obtained after information had been received from the Surrey County Council that two producers were not producing milk of the required standard. The following shows the the result :—

Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	2	
Containing B.Coli	...	...	...	...	1	
					—	3
					—	
						21
						—

As regards the two samples containing tubercle bacilli the Surrey County Council were immediately communicated with and I was informed that the Divisional Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries examined the two herds from which the samples were taken and found a cow at each suffering from 'Tuberculosis. The animals were destroyed under the 'Tuberculosis Order.

(b) *Meat and other Food*.—Details of the inspection of meat and slaughterhouses are given in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

The Table of Carcases inspected and condemned is given overleaf :—

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows.</i>	<i>Cows.</i>	<i>Calves.</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs.</i>	<i>Pigs.</i>
Number killed	5	—	13	105	541
Number inspected	5	—	13	105	541
All diseases except tuberculosis.					
Whole Carcasses condemned	Nil	—	Nil	Nil	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	36%
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole Carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	18
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	3.32%

Shops, stalls and vehicles and places where food is stored or prepared have been kept under observation.

(c) *Adulteration of foods, etc.*—The following list has been supplied by the County Council by whom the Food and Drug Acts are administered.

Articles.	Analysed.			Adulterated or deteriorated			Prosecutions	Convictions
	Formal	Informal	Total	Formal	In-formal	Total		
Milk	79	10	89	7	—	7	—	—
Cream	3	2	5	2	1	3	—	—
Cheese	1	3	4	—	—	—	—	—
Lard	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Meat	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Tea	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Sausages	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Confectionery & Jam	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
*Other Articles	1	3	4	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	91	18	109	9	1	10	—	—

*Details of other articles :—

Liver	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
Preserved Sausages	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Lemon Squash ...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—

There were no prosecutions under the Food and Drug Acts.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following table shows the incidence of the three principle notifiable diseases during the last six years :—

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever
1933	33	10	—
1934	105	27	2
1935	127	67	3
1936	66	35	2
1937	80	31	1
1938	69	34	2

The following tables give the incidence of the notified cases for ages and wards, giving also the the number of cases that were admitted to hospital.

The second table shows the monthly notifications throughout the year.

Scarlet Fever.—There was some diminution in the number of cases. All cases, except 6, were treated in hospital. The largest number occurred at the age of 5 years which would be the time of commencing attendance at school. The attacks were very mild on the whole and did not give rise to many complications.

The attack rate is 1·43 per 1,000; that for England and Wales is 2·41.

Diphtheria.—Of the 34 cases notified more than one third, 12, were at the age of 5 years—that is, soon after the beginning of school life. The cases were admitted to hospital and in the majority of cases antitoxin was only given on admission. It would be well if a dose was given when a throat is swabbed as it can hardly ever do any harm and almost always does good.

Immunization against Diphtheria.—This has been carried on as in former years, and the following number have been immunized :—

At the Shaftesbury	Pre-school age	...	76
Home	School age	...	181
Children of insured			
persons			162
Privately			65
			<hr/>
			257
			<hr/>
			257
			<hr/>

The practice adopted for children under the age of 8 years is to give two injections of Alum Precipitated Toxoid at an interval of 3 or 4 weeks.

The case rate is 0·78 per 1000; that for England and Wales is 1·58 per 1000.

Typhoid Fever.—One case was notified and careful enquiries failed to trace the source of infection. This was a severe case and has since proved fatal.

One case of para-typhoid also was notified and, in this instance also, enquiries failed to find the source of infection. The patient was admitted to hospital and made a good recovery.

Erysipelas.—Of the 15 cases notified 8 were treated in hospital. There was an outbreak at the Schiff Home of Recovery which was soon checked by isolation of the patients in hospital.

Pneumonia.—Thirty-two cases were notified, of which 17 were removed to hospital. There were 18 deaths or a rate of 0·42 per 1,000.

Puerperal Pyrexia.—Four cases were notified and three were treated in hospital. There were no deaths.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—Two cases were notified and treated in hospital, both recovered without any evidence of damage to sight.

Measles.—The only information as to the prevalence of measles is that derived from the Head Teachers of Schools. It is the custom now to admit severe cases to hospital and some cases which cannot be nursed at home. The use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation has not been employed except by private practitioners.

4. (a) *Prevention of Blindness.*—It has not been necessary to take any action under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

(b) *Tuberculosis.*—It has not been necessary to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations (relating to persons suffering from tuberculosis employed in the milk trade) or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The number of cases on the register at the end of 1938 was, Pulmonary 93 and Non-Pulmonary 27.

	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	72	70	81	84	91	93
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	28	23	21	25	26	27
Totals	100	93	102	109	117	120

There were 13 deaths from Tuberculosis (all forms) or a rate of 0.306 per 1,000.

On the whole tuberculosis cases are notified quite soon after the diagnosis is made. No action has had to be taken with regard to notification as no cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify have occurred.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1938.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified	AGE PERIODS												Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths	Total Cases Notified in each Locality (e g Parish or Ward of the District)							
		Under 1														Thames Ditton	Long Ditton	Esher	Claygate	Cobham	Stoke d' Abernon	East Molesey	West Molesey
		1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	Over											
Scarlet Fever	69		3	1	3	3	6	13	7	3	2	1		63	1	2	3	7	2	24	2	14	15
Diphtheria	34		3	2	1	1	2	6	3	6	1			34	7	12		3				9	10
Pneumonia	32	6	2	2	3	1	8		4	2	3	1		17	18	7	4	3	2	2	1	4	9
Erysipelas	15								1	2	9	3		8		1				8	1	3	2
Paratyphoid...	1											1		1					1				
Puerperal Pyrexia	4								4					3				1		2			1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2												2								1	1
Typhoid	1								1						1			1					
Poliomyelitis	1		1											1		1							
Totals	159	8	2	9	6	5	6	19	10	19	7	14	4	129	27	23	7	15	5	36	4	31	38

6 cases of Scarlet Fever treated at home.

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Pneumonia	Typhoid Fever	Poliomyelitis	Erysipelas	Para-typhoid	Puerperal Pyrexia	Ophthalmia	Totals
January	5		10			6	1	1		23
February	7		2			2			1	12
March	4	1	6			1				12
April	9	1	2			1			1	14
May	12	1	5			1		1		20
June	6		2			1				9
July	4	2								6
August	9	2				2		1		14
September	1	11								12
October	4	13		1				1		19
November	4	3			1	1				9
December	4		5							9
TOTALS	69	34	32	1	1	15	1	4	2	159

(c) *Tuberculosis.*—

New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	..	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
5	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	1	2	...	...	...	2	...	...
25	1	4	...	1	...	4	...	...
35	4	3	...	...	1	...	...	...
45	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
55	1	1	...	...	1	2	...	...
65 upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	10	11	1	1	4	8	1	...

(1) Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Work-places :—

PREMISES. 1.	Number of		
	Inspections, 2	Written Notices 3	Occupiers Prosecuted 4
Factories with mechanical power	197	3	—
Factories without mechanical power	78	1	—
Other Premises under the Act, (including works of building and engineering construc- tion but not including outworkers' premises) ...	1	—	—
Totals	276	4	—

(2) Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Work-places:—

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were Instituted
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
1.	2	3.	4	5
Want of cleanliness ...	6	6	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature...	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ...	1	1	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—				
Insufficient ...	3	3	—	—
Unsuitable or Defective ...	7	7	—	—
Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
Other Offences— (Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937) ...	5	5	—	—
TOTALS ...	22	22	—	—

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1938.

April, 1939.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Esher.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my ninth Annual Report upon the work of your Sanitary Inspectors for the year 1938.

The report is compiled in accordance with the directions contained in a memorandum from the Ministry of Health and as required by Article XXVII (18) of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1935.

It follows the lines of previous reports and, with one or two exceptions, is tabulated.

COMPLAINTS.

During the year under review two hundred and three complaints were received with respect to the following:—

Defective condition of house drains	31
Insanitary or dilapidated conditions of houses and premises	36
Verminous conditions	1
Nuisance from dampness in walls and floors ...	12
Defective condition of water closets	4
Water supply to dwelling-houses disconnected ...	14
Smoke nuisances	2
Alleged overcrowding	4
Insufficient and defective dust receptacles	5
Nuisances from animals improperly kept	3
Offensive accumulations of refuse, manure, etc. ...	19
Offensive smells from various causes	21

Flooding	4
Insanitary condition of yards and passages ...	6
Burning of refuse	3
Insanitary condition of ponds, watercourses and ditches	6
Septic tank overflowing	1
Presence of Rats	18
Infestation by Ants, Flies and Mosquitoes ...	5
Miscellaneous	8

As regards the complaints of the presence of rats these have all been forwarded to the appropriate officer of the Surrey County Council's Agricultural Department who deals with this matter.

INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

Number of houses and premises inspected (ordinary)	515
Number of houses inspected and particulars recorded (Housing Act)	35
Number of houses and premises re-inspected ...	982
Number of miscellaneous visits	180
Number of visits to works in progress	441
Number of visits to slaughterhouses	351
Number of visits to dairies, cowsheds and milk- shops	126
Number of visits to bakehouses	102
Number of visits to Factories with mechanical power	134
Number of visits to Factories without mechanical power	148
Number of visits <i>re</i> cases of infectious disease ...	207
Number of visits <i>re</i> disinfection	50
Number of visits to caravans	214
Number of visits <i>re</i> Shops Act, 1912 to 1936 ...	313
Visits <i>re</i> Overcrowding (Housing Act, 1936) ...	223

Watercourses	4
Visits <i>re</i> foodshops	94
Visits <i>re</i> piggeries	32
Visits <i>re</i> Water Supply	361

NOTICES SERVED.

Informal notices	386
Abatement notices in respect of nuisances, Public Health Act, 1936, Section 93	11
Notice to provide covered dustbin for house refuse, Public Health Act, 1936, Section 75	2
Notice requiring the person having control of a house to execute work, Housing Act, 1936, Section 9	9
Order for Demolition of a house, Housing Act, 1936, Section 11	4
Requisition for Information, Housing Act, 1936, Section 168	11
Licence for temporary use of house by persons in excess of the permitted number, Section 61, Housing Act, 1936	1
Notice of time and place at which matters relating to the making of a Demolition Order in respect of a house will be considered, Housing Act, 1936, Section 11	10
Notice to owner to provide water supply, Public Health Act, 1936, Section 138	2
Notice to occupier to Quit house after Demolition Order has become operative, Housing Act, 1936, Section 155	3

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT:—

DRAINAGE SYSTEMS.

Repaired, cleansed ,etc.	53
Completely relaid	12
Partly relaid	13

Additional provided	...	...	...	...	35
Gullies fixed or repaired	...	...	...	...	56
Cesspools emptied and abolished	...	...	...	...	20
Intercepted from sewer	...	...	...	...	6

MANHOLES.

New provided	...	...	...	...	55
New covers fixed	...	...	...	...	30
Altered or repaired	...	...	...	...	7

VENTILATING SHAFTS.

Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	3
New fixed	...	...	...	...	...	7
Additional provided	...	...	...	...	...	4
Mica flap valves repaired	...	...	...	...	...	3
New mica flap valves fixed	...	...	...	...	...	14
Wire cages fixed	...	...	...	...	...	6

SOIL PIPES.

New fixed	...	...	...	...	...	3
Additional provided	...	...	...	...	...	6

WATER CLOSETS.

Rebuilt	...	...	...	...	...	5
Additional provided	...	...	...	...	...	15
New pans fixed	...	...	...	...	...	33
Pans cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	8
Flushing cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	...	27
New flushing cisterns fixed	...	...	...	...	...	33
Floors repaired or relaid	...	...	...	...	...	4
Internal walls rendered or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	12
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	8
Ceilings repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Lighted or ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	22

Seats repaired or new provided ...	...	...	44
Roof repaired ...	...	...	1
External walls rendered or repaired ...	...	...	5
Water supply reinstated ...	...	...	4

SINKS, BATHS, ETC.

New glazed stoneware sinks provided ...	...	44
Additional baths and lavatory basins ...	...	33

WASTE PIPES, ETC.

Repaired ...	...	...	14
New Provided ...	...	...	65
Trapped ...	...	...	4

RAINWATER PIPES.

Repaired ...	...	...	16
New provided ...	...	...	7
Additional provided ...	...	...	1

WATER SUPPLY.

Draw-off taps disconnected ...	...	...	11
Water re-instated or laid on ...	...	...	29
Service pipes repaired, etc. ...	...	...	3
Storage cistern abolished ...	...	...	1
Storage cistern covered ...	...	...	1
Shallow well abolished ...	...	...	1

PAVING.

Yards paved ...	...	...	7
Yard paving repaired ...	...	...	15
Yard paving extended ...	...	...	6
Yards cleansed ...	...	...	2

DUST RECEPTACLE.

Provided	145
--------------	-----	-----	-----

DAMPNESS.

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	37
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	27
Eaves gutters provided	...	...	...	...	5
Ventilation provided under floor	...	...	...	...	7
External walls pointed	...	...	...	...	25
External walls rendered	...	...	...	...	14
House walls treated with solution	...	...	...	...	31
Sills repaired, weathered or renewed	...	...	...	...	11

GENERAL REPAIRS, ETC.

External walls repaired	...	...	...	...	11
Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	50
Sash cords renewed	...	...	...	...	28
Windows made to open	...	...	...	...	12
House floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	38
Skirting repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	47
Ranges and coppers repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	48
Rooms ventilated	...	...	...	...	4
Internal walls repaired	...	...	...	...	54
Ceilings repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	22
Ceilings provided	...	...	...	...	5
Rooms cleansed	...	...	...	...	201
External painting	...	...	...	...	4
Chimney stacks repointed	...	...	...	...	17
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	20
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	9
Hand rails provided	...	...	...	...	2
Food store provided	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	25
Obstructive buildings removed	...	...	...	...	5

ASH RECEPTACLES.

The provision of galvanized iron ash receptacles at houses in the district has been steadily main-

tained, and during the period under review a total of 145 new ash receptacles were provided as a result of notices served.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND FOOD INSPECTION.

There are now ten private slaughterhouses in the district, eight "registered" and two "licensed." One "licensed" slaughterhouse is situate in East Molesey and the other in West Molesey.

The slaughterhouses are situate in the following Wards :—

Claygate	...	...	..	.	...	2
Cobham	...	.	...	...		3
East Molesey	...	...	...	...		2
Esher	...	...	...	...	...	2
West Molesey	...	...	...	...	..	1

Only seven have been actively used during the past year and one occasionally, the remaining two (one at Cobham and one at Esher) have not been used.

The slaughterhouses have been visited in accordance with notifications received from the butchers under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, when slaughtering is taking place, and the animals have been thoroughly examined.

Visits have also been made at various times to ascertain if slaughtering is taking place without notification, contrary to the Meat Regulations, but no breach of these Regulations has been observed.

The slaughterhouses, and yards in connection therewith, have always been found to be clean and well kept and they have been periodically lime-washed.

It has been necessary on a good number of occasions to pay visits in the evenings for the purpose of examining carcasses whilst shops and premises, other than slaughterhouses, where food is prepared, have also been visited.

The following table shows the number of visits to slaughterhouses and to Shops for the purpose of Food Inspection :—

To slaughterhouses	...	...	...	351
To food shops	...	...	...	94

The following number of carcasses were examined :—

Oxen	...	...	...	5
Calves	...	...	...	13
Sheep	...	...	...	105
Pigs	...	...	...	541
				<hr/>
				664
				<hr/>

The number of animals being slaughtered in the district is gradually decreasing as the following comparison will show :—

1933	...	...	...	3,197
1934	...	...	...	1,851
1935	...	...	...	1,963
1936	...	...	...	1,241
1937	...	...	...	808
1938	...	...	...	664

One new Licence was issued to a Slaughterman during the year under review, and eighteen slaughtermens' licences were renewed, so that at the end of the year, there was a total of nineteen licensed slaughtermen on the Register.

The following diseased meat and unsound food was surrendered and destroyed :—

Pigs.

Heads	(11)	128½ lbs.	Tuberculosis
Plucks	(4)	32 lbs.	Tuberculosis
Mesenteries	(3)	5 lbs.	Tuberculosis
Liver	(1)	2¾ lbs.	Fatty degeneration.

Carcase &

Organs	(1)	38 lbs.	Pyæmia
			Total 206 lbs.

Beef.

170 lbs.	Unsound
Total 170 lbs.	

Cod fillets.

5½ lbs.	Unsound
Total 5½ lbs.	

Total 3 cwt. 1 qr. 17½ lbs.

FACTORIES.

The Factories Act, 1937, came into force on the 1st July, 1938, and is a consolidating and amending measure, replacing the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, and various later Acts.

The designation “workshop” has been abolished and all premises are now known as “factories” under two main heads, viz:- where mechanical power is used and where it is not used.

Briefly the Council are responsible for enforcing certain sections of the Act, *e.g.*, means of escape in case of fire and the provisions relating to sanitary conveniences in *all* factories, whilst in factories where mechanical power is not used, the provisions as to cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation, and drainage of floors, also comes under the Council's jurisdiction.

Except for the section dealing with means of escape in case of fire; which is supervised by the Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade; the Council's

Sanitary Inspectors were appointed the authorised officers for seeing that the beforementioned provisions were being carried out and the opportunity was taken, in co-operation with H.M. Inspector of Factories, of revising and bringing up-to-date the Register of Factories in the district.

A visible record card system was introduced and before the year under review ended every factory was visited and the Register completed and checked with the records of H.M. Inspector of Factories.

It will be noticed upon perusal of the under-mentioned list of factories and comparing it with the list published in my report for 1937 that there is a noticeable difference in the total number on the register, viz. :- 186 as against 251 last year, but if the figure of 78 is added, which represents "one man businesses," this will account for the difference.

The total number of Bakehouses, none of which are underground, has been increased from 19 to 32, this may be accounted for by the fact that premises where home made cakes, etc., are prepared in connection with Cafes and Tea Shops have been added and will in future be periodically visited and treated in the same manner as a Bakehouse where bread only is baked.

The Businesses carried out at the respective premises are as follows :—

Factories with mechanical power :—

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	21
Beer and Mineral Water Bottling	...	...	...	...	2
Boat and launch builders	...	...	...	...	2
Book binders and printers	...	...	...	...	3
Boot and Shoe repairers	...	...	...	...	6
Brickworks	...	...	...	...	3

Builders	...	...	...	...	...	4
Building Material Manufacturers					...	2
Caravan builder	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cinema productions			...	...	...	1
Concrete block manufacturers			...	...	...	2
Confectionery works		...	...	...	...	1
Coach builders	...	...	...	...	...	2
Corn Merchant	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cycle repairer	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dental Wax works	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dressmaker	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dry Cleaners	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ice Cream manufacturer	...	...	...	...	...	1
Laundries	...	...	...	...	...	5
Manufacturing optician	...	...	...	...	...	1
Marble works	...	...	...	...	...	1
Motor Engineering	...	...	...	...	...	29
Nut and Bolt manufacturer			...	...	...	1
Precision manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	2
Tailor	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tent and Sail Maker			...	...	...	1
Tool Maker	...	...	...	...	...	1
Toy manufacturer	...	...	...	...	...	1
Wood Merchants	...	...	...	...	...	3
Wireless manufacturer	...	...	...	...	...	1

104 104

Factories without mechanical power :—

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	11
Blacksmiths	...	...	...	...	...	3
Boat repairer	...	...	...	...	...	1
Brick maker	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bronze founder	...	...	...	...	...	1
Builders	...	...	...	...	...	18
Cabinet makers	...	...	...	...	...	4
Council Depots	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cycle repairers	...	...	...	...	...	2

Coach builder	...	...	...	...	1
Dressmakers	...	...	...	...	6
Electricians ...	...	...	...	...	6
Furrier	...	...	...	...	1
Gas Co's. Depots	...	...	...	...	2
Laundries	...	...	...	...	2
Motor Engineers	...	...	...	...	6
Plumbers	...	...	...	...	2
Saddler	...	...	...	...	1
Tailors	...	...	...	...	6
Tent Maker	...	...	...	...	1
Timber and Wood Merchants	...	...	...	...	2
Wireless repairers	...	...	...	...	2
					82
					82
					186

In addition to the foregoing there is recorded, as already mentioned, 78 premises consisting of various trades and businesses carried on in the district which do not come within the definition of of a " Factory " as they are " one-man " businesses and have no employees. These premises are not on the register but merely kept as a record.

The following work was carried out in connection with visits made under the Factories Act either to abate nuisances or to effect an improvement to the premises :—

Factories

Walls cleansed	...	...	...	...	5
Floors cleansed	...	...	...	...	1
Lighting improved	...	...	...	...	1

Water Closets

Apartments cleansed	...	...	...	...	3
Lighting improved	...	...	...	...	2

Additional provided	...	...	...	...	2
New pans provided	...	...	...	...	3
Pans cleansed	...	...	...	...	3
Cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	3
Flush pipe repaired	...	...	...	...	1
New seats provided	...	...	...	...	2
Door fasteners provided	...	...	...	...	3
<i>Sinks</i>					
New provided	...	...	...	...	3
Additional lavatory basin provided	...	...	...	...	1
<i>Drains</i>					
Unstopped, cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	2
<i>Accumulations</i>					
Removed	...	...	...	...	1
<i>Bakehouse</i>					
Enlarged	...	...	...	...	1

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

At the end of the year there were fifty-one persons on the Registers as follows:—

Retail Purveyors and Producers of Milk	...	13
Wholesale Producers only	...	7
Milkshops in the district	...	20
Retail Purveyors of Milk residing outside the district	...	11
		<hr/>
		51
		<hr/>

There are twenty-six Cowkeepers in the district with fifty-three cowsheds.

The dairy farms are situate in the following Wards:—

Claygate	6
Cobham	8
Esher	3
Stoke d'Abernon ...	5
Thames Ditton ...	3
West Molesey ...	1

26

During the past year two farms have discontinued the keeping of cows and the names of these farms have accordingly been removed from the appropriate register.

The average number of milch cows kept at the dairy farms is now 573.

At the end of the year there were thirteen farms which were producing "Accredited" Milk, the cow-keepers of which had been placed on the Roll of Accredited Producers. There is also one dairy farm in the district licenced by the Surrey County Council for the production and bottling of "Tuberculin Tested" Milk.

The following improvements to cowsheds or dairies have been carried out at three farms.

- 1 Farm. One cowshed constructed out of an old barn.
New front provided with loose hopper lights.
3 new skylights fixed.
New floor, standing channels, trough and divisions formed in mass concrete.
New manure tank constructed.
New drains provided.

2 Farm. *One cowshed.*

New standing and manure channel formed in mass concrete.

New galvanized iron divisions provided.

Individual water bowls provided and connected to main supply.

Eaves gutter and rainwater pipes renewed.

Dairy.

New concrete floor provided.

Three new windows to open provided.

Wall cement rendered.

New boiler and sterilizer provided.

3 Farm. *Cowshed 1.* Manure channel improved.

Automatic drinking bowls fixed.

Cowshed 2. Three windows fixed.

Three skylights fixed.

Yard. Concreted.

Licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, have been issued as follows :—

Dealers' Licences to sell "Tuberculin Tested"	
Milk	9
Dealers' Licences to sell "Pasteurised" Milk	11
Licences to "Pasteurise" Milk	2
Supplementary Licences to sell "Tuberculin Tested" Milk	3
Supplementary Licences to sell "Pasteurised" Milk	3
Dealers' Licence to bottle "Tuberculin Tested" Milk	1

TENTS, VANS, SHEDS AND CARAVANS.

The total number in the Council's area at the end of the year was 106.

Inspections have been carried out from time to time with a view to their being kept in accordance with the Byelaws. With the conservancy type of

closet, inaccessibility of water supply, restricted accommodation, etc., caravan dwellings in an Urban area cannot be regarded as satisfactory.

SHOPS ACTS, 1912-1936.

The compilation of the Register of Shops was completed during the year and 313 visits were paid to shops in connection with the Shops Act, special attention being paid to the requirements as to sanitary accommodation, ventilation, warming and lighting.

Very few complaints were received as to contravention of the Shops Acts dealing with Closing Hours, Holidays, etc., but in every case the complaint was investigated and the matter settled without it being necessary to bring it formally to the notice of the Council.

SPRAYING OF PONDS AND DITCHES.

The systematic spraying of the ponds, ditches, water courses and water holes in the district with Mosquito Oil has been carried out during the year from the early Spring to the late Autumn.

There are about 107 ponds, and efforts were made to visit each at least once a week.

These ponds are situate in the following Wards :

Claygate	...	...	20
Cobham	...	...	10
Esher	...	...	43
Long Ditton	...	...	11
Stoke d'Abernon	...	...	6
Thames Ditton	...	...	11
West Molesey	...	...	6
Total			107

Very few complaints were received during the year as to the presence of mosquitoes and it may be concluded that this service has been found to be most beneficial in reducing the insect pest (especially of the Mosquito type) to a minimum.

DISINFECTION.

During the year disinfection has been carried out at various premises after the following :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	69
Diphtheria	...	...	34
Tuberculosis	...	...	9
Cancer	...	...	7
Erysipelas	...	...	4
Typhoid	...	...	3
Scabies	...	...	2
Vermin	...	...	25
Miscellaneous	...	...	42
Total			195

Bedding and articles of clothing have been taken from 31 houses in the district to the Tolworth Isolation Hospital for steam disinfection at the request of the occupiers, and from three houses infectious bedding was removed and destroyed upon request from the occupiers.

In concluding this report, I must make some reference to the retirement of Dr. Senior. For the past 43 years, since the inception of the Esher and The Dittons Urban District Council in 1895, he has been the Medical Officer of Health to your Council and it is with a deep sense of loss that all in the Department feel his departure.

Dr. Senior was always exceedingly kind and sympathetic and he took an exceptionally keen interest in the work of the Sanitary Inspectors and Clerical staff and on the behalf of all I offer him our sincere thanks and our best wishes in his retirement.

Thanks is also offered to the other officials for their ever ready co-operation and advice at all times.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

REGINALD F. WHEELER,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

